

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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Executive Director John J. Johnson
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights
332 West Broadway, Suite 700
Louisville, KY 40202

Mr. Johnson:

Fifty years ago, my predecessors in the Kentucky General Assembly saw the terrible social and moral crisis confronting our commonwealth and our nation. All around us, people were denied the basic needs of existence for reasons that were out of their control. In 1960, it took no small amount of courage to create the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. It's to their credit they had that courage, and it's to your credit, as well as that of your staff, past and present, that the commission has done such a tremendous job at protecting and preserving Kentuckians' equal rights.

As Dr. Martin Luther King said, "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem." Indeed, I'm not sure the members of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights could have foreseen the nature of the issues you handle today. The broad array of discrimination in our society, and the many forms it can take, requires an ever-vigilant task force of dedicated men and women, and Kentucky is fortunate to have you, the commissioners, and your staff among them.

The real story behind the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, however, is not in the number of complaints heard, or the number of cases closed, or even the number of people whose rights have been protected and lives improved. The true victory for justice is in the number of minds the commission has changed, through education and community involvement. Each new generation of Kentucky is more open-minded than the last, and that is in part to your efforts.

The last fifty years have seen marvelous improvements in the lives of all Kentuckians, black or white, male or female, native- or foreign-born. The next fifty years and beyond will require the same courage and moral fortitude that our forebears possessed in 1960. I hope we're up to that challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arnold R. Simpson".

Rep. Arnold Simpson
Kentucky House of Representatives
Covington